

PHLF NEWS

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
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731 Wisteria Avenue
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15228

HISTORIC PROPERTY GIVEN TO PHLF WALKER-EWING LOG HOUSE TO BE AVAILABLE TO MEMBERS



We are very pleased to announce the gift of this ancient property to PHLF by Mrs. Jane Rovensky Ewing Grace. The 3-story log house with nearly 1/2 acre of land comes to us accompanied by a gift of \$2400. for renovations and a yearly cash grant for basic maintenance. More surrounding land will be given in the future.

The Log House which is located in Collier Township of Allegheny County is approximately 12 miles from the Point, and south west of the Greater Pittsburgh Airport. It is situated between Noblestown Road and Robinson Run and the Penn-Central Railroad. This land which is just over the hill from a Niki Site and close to the expanding Greater Pittsburgh Airport is also very close to a County Regional Park, Settler's Cabin, and the Walker-Ewing-Glass House. While the land is of historic importance now, it will become of vital importance as residential and commercial development continue in that section of the County.

The condition of the Log House is very good; it needs only minor renovations. For the use of this historic property which has been submitted for inclusion on the State and National Registers, we plan a program unique to preservation groups. By spring the house and grounds will be ready for meetings for corporations and groups such as civic groups; a retreat center for groups; and for a quiet retreat for our members. We feel many of our members would enjoy a place "to get away from it all" where they could enjoy living in a log cabin with its great fireplaces and spacious grounds for sport and relaxation and yet be only 12 miles from the City.

A Brief History of the Walker-Ewing Log House

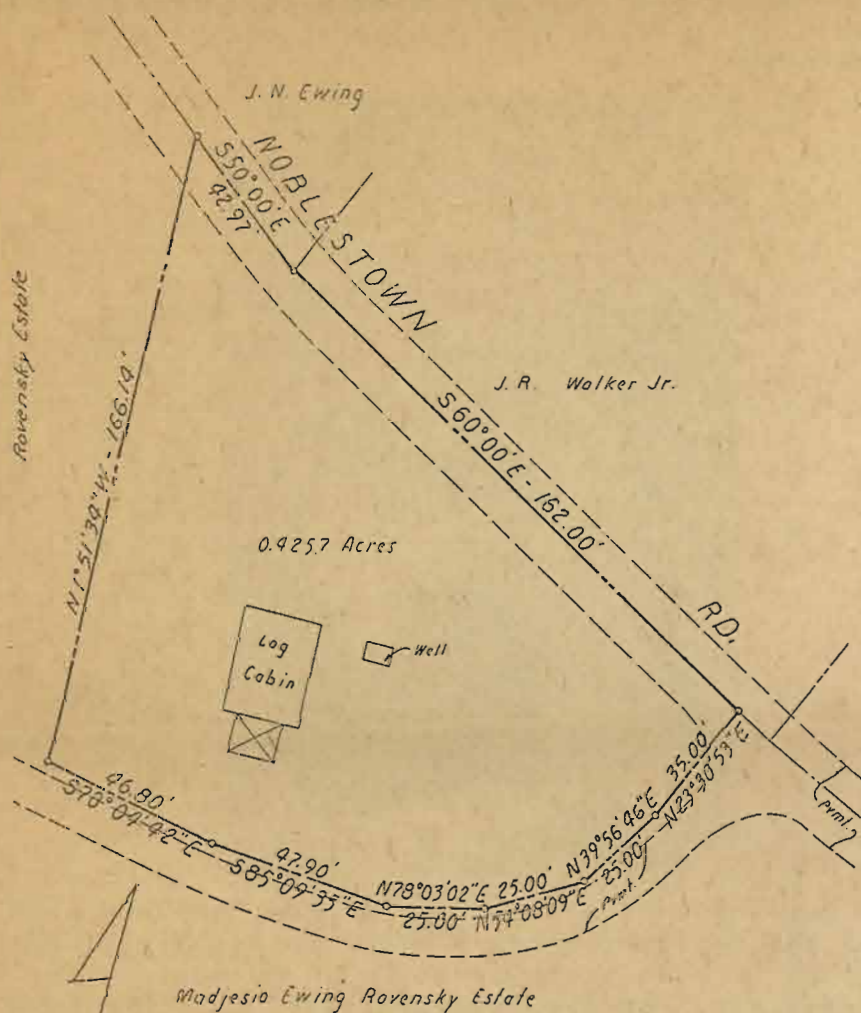
Two ancient ancestors of Mrs. Grace, the donor of the log house were Isaac Walker, Senior, and Gabriel Walker who took up a Toma-hawk claim when they were still bachelors and built the present 3-story log house.

The house is dated 1762 on the upper large triangle stone chimney. The house was finished about 25 years later. It is all dove-tailed and English fort architecture. They never moved into the house, but kept it for frontiersmen to sleep in and use temporarily. They bought many claims in this section, but this one was the first, and has never gone out of the family's possession.

These two ancestors finally settled at Walkers Mills. They must have been in this locale for quite sometime before 1762 as it's known their father, John Walker and his wife Mary were also here.

In the Warrantee Atlas, in the Historical Schenly Library, it states the Walkers and Ewings were the

(continued on page 2)



PLAN OF PROPERTY
Situate In
COLLIER TWP., ALLEG. CO., PA.
Made For
Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation
Scale: 1"=30' July 16, 1973
Paul C. Swiech Reg. P. Eng.



first permanent settlers in this Township. James Ewing's grants comprised 2,000 acres, 12 miles from the Point.

THE WALKER TRAGEDY

In September 1782 about 25 Indians approached the log cabin of Gabriel Walker near Robinson's Run and concealed themselves with the intention of surprising the family while at dinner. Fortunately, just at this time, some travelers, with guns, came to the Walker home causing the Indians to delay their attack. When the travelers had taken their departure, and while the younger members of the family and an apprentice named William Harkins, were working in the fields some distance from the house, the Indians, coming from their place of concealment, captured five of the Walker children. They pursued William Harkins who made his escape to the Fort of James Ewing, two miles away and gave the alarm. Mrs. Walker, with two small children made her escape to the high weeds behind the house and then fled to Ewing's Fort. Mr. Walker also made his escape to this place of refuge. In the meantime, William Harkins, while running to the Fort passed the cabin of Isaac Walker, and gave the alarm, and thus enabled him and his family also to escape to the Fort.

After pillaging and burning the home of Gabriel, the Indians attacked Ewing's Fort. However, several men from Mills Run, among whom was Captain Joseph Casnet, arrived at Ewing's Fort and after due deliberation and consultation in which they tried to negotiate with the Indians, to no avail, the Indians murdered one of the captured children of Gabriel Walker in sight of the blockhouse.

The Indians then departed taking with them Gabriel's two daughters and a son. The news of the murders and the capture soon spread through the neighborhood and a bank of about fifty settlers, among whom were John Ewing, John Henry, Peter Hickman and John Connor pursued the Indians, and fired upon them as they were crossing the Ohio at Logstown, killing one and wounding another.

The 3 captured children were taken to an English camp in Canada and were returned one year and 9 months later to Philadelphia and Martha married William Stewart of Harrisburg and became the great, great grandmother of Mrs. Grace.

It is said one of the Walker brothers owned the Point at one time and traded it for a good penknife. Reportedly he said, "There will always be plenty of land, but a good penknife was a good penknife, and I could use it!"

William Ewing, Sr., Mrs. Grace's maternal great-grandfather, was known as Squire Ewing. Born 1784 and died 1865. His wife was Jane Walker, born 1784 and died 1852, daughter of Isaac Walker, of Walker's Mills. It was this union that brought the "Log House" into the Ewing family. It was a gift to Jane from the Walkers who had always owned it. William and Jane lived in the log house with their six children. It was during this time that the Pennsylvania Railroad's main division west to Chicago, St. Louis and Cincinnati was built through the farm. The railroad went broke at this point and several representatives of Robinson Run loaned the railroad \$6,000 cash. They received bonds to be paid them with interest on a certain date. A few of the families were paid after entering many claims, but William Ewing was never paid anything!

The Log House has remained in the Ewing family through the years, and we feel it quite an honor that Mrs. Grace has chosen to give it to PHLF.

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

October 15	Lecture at Old Post Office 8:30 p.m. Mrs. St. Clair Wright of Historic Annapolis
October 26-28	Bus Tour to Historic Annapolis
November 4-19	Fall Flower Show at Allegheny Center Mall
November 6-8	Christmas Sale at Old Post Office Gift Shop
November 8	Volunteers Meeting at Old Post Office at 7:30 p.m.
December 2	Annual Members' Christmas Party at Old Post Office

THE GARDEN COURT PROGRESSES



The elaborate arched form work was erected for the portion of the wall that will frame the granite maidens from the Fourth Avenue post office.



Ellis Schmidlapp inspects the arched wall which consists of two rows of concrete block faced each with Belgian block from Southern Avenue in Mt. Washington.



Our Executive Director, Mr. Ziegler, reviews drawings for the garden court with Ted Reiber, President of Reiber Construction Co., contractors for foundations, masonry, and grating. The completed Belgian block wall is behind them.

NEEDED...

Antique toys to display at Old Post Office Christmas Exhibit. We will pick up. Call Mrs. McBeth at 341-5855 or 322-1204.

THE PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE

"Notes from the Ecology Department"

We think of Old Allegheny in 1850 as a place primitive perhaps beyond belief. No gas, no electricity, no telephones, no movies, no automobiles, no traffic, no shopping malls, no urban renewal, none of the amenities of our sophisticated life.

For example, what non-ecological images does the Ordinance of June 6, 1850 conjure up in our day of immaculate cleanliness (in the better areas of course)? Here it is verbatim:

An Ordinance regulating the cleaning of privies in the City of Allegheny

Be it enacted by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the passage of this ordinance, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons to empty or cleanse any privy or necessary house in said city, from the first day of May to the first day of November, in any year hereafter, by hauling or conveying the contents thereof along the streets, lanes or alleys of said city, without first obtaining a permit from the Mayor, designating the place in the permit where the contents shall be deposited, and the time of night to commence cleaning or hauling away, and the time of quitting, which shall be from ten o'clock at night, until four o'clock in the morning, so as not to annoy the citizens; and the Mayor shall keep a book, and enter such permits in, for the purpose of reference to persons hauling filth from being emptied or spilled on any of the streets, lanes or alleys or commons of said city. And any person violating this ordinance, and being legally convicted thereof before the Mayor, or an alderman of said city, shall pay a fine of not less than two dollars, or more than ten dollars, to be recovered as all fines and penalties are by law recoverable.

But let us examine the scene in 1850 a bit further. Perhaps civilization or at least law and order is slowly making its presence felt so that Old Allegheny can one day acquire the serene and peaceful quality of its street scenes in 1973. For the Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny in 2 November 1848 pass the following Ordinance:

An Ordinance empowering the Mayor to act in certain cases of the breach of the public peace.

Sec. 1. Be it ordained and enacted by the Select and Common Councils assembled, That from and after the passage of this ordinance, the constable and watchmen of the City of Allegheny be and they are hereby empowered and required to apprehend all night walkers, malefactors, vagabonds, rogues and disorderly persons whom they may find gathered together at the corners of the streets, or in the vicinity of the Churches, or on the Common Ground, or other public places in a disorderly manner, to the disturbance and injury of all well disposed persons, and to bring all such persons as may be apprehended, to the Mayor, to be examined and dealt with according to law.

Thus it was that night walkers, malefactors and vagabonds disappeared and tranquillity in the streets came to Old Allegheny. The way was now ripe for turning to higher cultural pursuits.

In 1849 the Select and Common Councils (one is reminded by these antique terms of the House of Commons, or even the Senate and the House) passed an ordinance regulating "Shows".

An Ordinance relating to exhibitions, shows, etc.

Be it ordained and enacted by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That the license fee for exhibiting any Painting or Work of Art, or Scientific Exhibition, shall be One Dollar for each exhibition, and Twenty-five Cents shall be paid the Mayor as his fee for granting the same, to be paid by the person or persons taking out the same, and all Ordinances inconsistent therewith, are hereby repealed.

Here we are compelled to interject by way of comparison with our superior civilization of 1973,

and the truly non-inflationary effort of your own Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation, that admission to our many "shows" in the Old Post Office Museum more than a century later remains today at 75¢! Moreover, since we are proudly independent and a private charity, nothing is due the Mayor as fee for granting the license.

Was there an early Ada Huxtable or Louis Kahn rampant on the Select Council (or even Common) or what is more likely was Allegheny fearful of a repetition of the Great Fire in Pittsburgh of April 10, 1845 right across the river? The Ordinance of 6 September 1849 for example inveighs against wooden buildings:

An Ordinance Prohibiting the Erection of wooden buildings within the corporate limits of the City of Allegheny.

Sec.1. Be it ordained and enacted by the Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny, and it is hereby enacted by the authority of the same, That from and after the first day of April, one thousand eight hundred and fifty, it shall be unlawful for any person or persons, to erect any wooden building within the corporate limits of the City of Allegheny.

Sec.2. Any person or persons violating the provisions of this ordinance, shall be fined fifty dollars and the cost of removing any building so erected within said limits, and it is hereby made the duty of the police of the city, and the Street Commissioner, to prosecute any persons found erecting any wooden building within said limits, and in violation of the provisions of this ordinance.

Does this account in part for the many handsome and sturdy brick buildings that so distinguish the North Side, Ridge Avenue and Beech Avenue, Manchester and the Mexican War Streets from the broken down wooden structures of Bangor, East Boston, Pawtucket and Bridgeport, Conn.?

The most far-reaching goal which we are still striving for and which at last the City of Pittsburgh is according its citizens of the North Side, (but not along the Monongahela, where a pitiful guardrail has been erected to allow children to fish on three feet of shore protected against the drifting automobiles) we find in the Ordinance of 20 September 1849.

An Ordinance prohibiting the depositing of stones &c., on the River Beach, &c.

Whereas, it is important to the true and permanent interests of the public that the highways of the rivers bordering and within the corporate limits of the city, should be protected from intrusion therein, as that nuisances and obstructions in the streets, lanes and alleys of the city should be removed, and such as create them punished. Therefore,

Be it ordained and enacted, by the Select and Common Councils of the city of Allegheny, That any and all structures, deposits of stones, or other materials placed on the bar, shores, or in the bosom of the river bordering on or within the limits of this city, not authorized by the Mayor and Street Commissioner, are hereby declared public nuisances.

Be it further enacted, That a fine of Ten Dollars be levied for the deposit of each and every perch of stone or rock; Two Dollars for every wagon load, and One Dollar for each and every cart load of said materials thus deposited in violation of this ordinance, and that the Mayor is hereby authorized and required to collect the same in the usual manner of collecting fines for nuisances on the streets, lanes and alleys of this city.

Oh, Select and Common Councils of the City of Allegheny as citizens of Pittsburgh we pledge you your Ordinance of 20 September 1849 will not be forgotten. We pledge you to fight for the rivers and against the nuisances, obstructions, stones and filth until Le bon Sieur de Bienville himself, floating down again from the Upper Allegheny to the Point, will marvel at the clarity and purity of La Belle Riviere and will quench his thirst out of the stream itself as he gazes at the proud and gleaming structures of an enlightened populace!

Charles Covert Arensberg

Submissions Made to the National Register

We recently completed 75 National Register Forms for many of the significant structures in Allegheny County. The work was done utilizing a matching grant of \$2500. from the Pennsylvania Historical and Museum Commission matched by our own funds.

The National Register of Historic Places is the official inventory of our nation's irreplaceable historic properties. It includes archaeological sites, historic districts, individual buildings, structures, and objects that possess national or local historical significance; or are associated with pre-history, an historic figure, or a renowned architect; or represent a distinctive style or method of construction. With a few exceptions, all entries must be at least fifty years old.

The Register is an important tool for preservation because it requires a hearing for any of its properties threatened with demolition or environmental alteration from a project utilizing federal funds. If the architectural or historical integrity of the property cannot be insured, the President's Advisory Council on Historic Preservation may intervene. The National Register was enacted in 1935 as a provision of the Historic Sites Act; and the criteria for eligible properties has been greatly expanded under the Historic Preservation Act of 1966.

A National Register form is an evaluation of the historic and descriptive qualities of a property and its relationship to the broader historic and architectural continuity of the area. Local groups or individuals submit the forms to the State Liaison Officer--a Governor appointed position--who in turn submits them to the National Register of Historic Places--a department within the National Park Service. The Secretary of the Interior and the Congress may supplement The Register.

The forms we submitted include the inclines, numerous churches, bridges, commercial buildings, private houses, inns, schools, a library, a statue, and several historic districts. Our selection of entries to the Register is by no means complete. We will submit forms on a continuing basis to secure Pittsburgh's unique architectural heritage.

"Raw Persimmon Award"



The Raw Persimmon Award for the worst tomfoolery with a fine historic building goes to the entrepreneur who has taken possession of what was once a nice four story 1870's building at the corner of Fourth and Market and which had a brick and cast iron facade.

Although Market Square has been declared by the city as an historic district, the process at the departments of building, inspection, and zoning did not catch the proposed mutilation of this historic facade so that consideration could be given to withholding the permit.

The architectural motif eludes us. Mansards above the first and second story level covered with cedar shake, pine paneling covering windows and walls of the first and second stories, a stuccoed picture window at the first story, and vestiges of the third story's original fabric produce a disturbing facade. Certainly the owner can't be serious, and we trust that all of the alterations are going to be taken away soon when his joke is over. If not, he will have to be given our special award, a large raw persimmon to munch on while he mulls the mutilation.



THE LANDMARKS' LONDON HOLIDAY

The Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation is having its first tour abroad. This one a charter flight to London, which over the past two thousand years has grown from a Roman village to its present size with cathedrals, palaces, mews, exciting theatre, museums, and art galleries that are unsurpassed.

Departure from Pittsburgh will be Friday evening, May 24th via Pan American World Airways charter jet for arrival in London on May 25, and return is Sunday, June 2. The complete package will include a full nine days and eight nights in London at the London Embassy Hotel on Bayswater Road facing Hyde Park and Kensington Gardens. The hotel was newly opened in January 1973, the rooms are fully equipped with private bath, color TV and direct dial telephones. It is conveniently located near the Queensway underground and within walking distance of the Kensington and Bayswater shops, boutiques and museums.

The per person rate for the complete package is \$419. plus \$3. US Departure tax, based on twinbedded rooms, double occupancy. Single supplement is available for \$40. additional. The package will include air transportation round trip, hotel accommodations, continental breakfast daily and complete sightseeing program as listed as well as all taxes, service and admission charges. If you prefer to fly with the charter but travel independently in England, round trip airfare is available for \$249. per person plus \$3. US Departure tax. Only members of the PHLF and their immediate families are eligible for the charter flight.

FEATURES OF THE TOUR INCLUDE:

- round trip air transportation by Pan American charter
- eight nights at the new London Embassy Hotel
- round trip transfers by exclusive motorcoach from airport to hotel including baggage transfer
- maps and sightseeing information for London
- an orientation tea get-together at hotel on arrival
- a hospitality desk open daily in the hotel for additional sightseeing tours and theatre tickets
- list of recommended restaurants in London, both famous and economical
- half-day walking tour in London with guide
- half-day tour to Hampton Court and Windsor Castle
- full day sightseeing tour in London including lunch
- full day tour to Bath, Stonehenge and Salisbury including lunch
- transfer round trip on June 1 for Queen's Birthday Trooping of the colors, one of Britain's great pageants and information for early application for tickets
- visit to a National Trust Property and information on its function
- meet members of the London Victorian Society at a tea Mrs. Fawcett who lectured here 2 years ago will greet us
- all taxes and service paid on tour features provided

Or just fly with us and travel on your own in London. . .

To confirm a reservation for the Landmarks' London Holiday, complete and mail the application below.

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

PERSONS TO ACCOMPANY ME _____ your own TELEPHONE _____

check preference: twin _____ single _____ airfare only _____

Name of roommate _____

ENCLOSE DEPOSIT OF \$50. for each person. Final payment is due April 1, 1974. Make all checks payable to Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation.

REFUNDS AND CANCELLATIONS: Airfare cancelled up to 45 days prior to departure will be refunded in full, less a \$10. non-refundable deposit. For cancellations on airfare later than 45 days prior to departure, there will be no refund due unless the space can be sold to a member of PHLF. For cancellation on land program, out-of-pocket expenses will be deducted from refund paid.

CHRISTMAS TIME AT THE OLD POST OFFICE GIFT SHOP



Our second annual Christmas Sale and tea will be held November 6th from 10 to 9; 7th from 10 to 4 p.m.; and 8th from 10 to 4. Many unusual gift items, a good selection of books, and a large assortment of inexpensive toys will be featured as well as many Christmas decorations and novelties. There will be many bargains on limited quantity items. Don't miss this opportunity to spend an interesting day in Old Allegheny. Visit the Fall Flower Show in the Mall, and come to the Museum to shop and meet friends. Some features of the Christmas Sale are listed below:

- Solid Brass Key Ring or Pendant embossed with actual U. S. postage stamp.....\$ 2.75
- Memory Box..... 8.50

- Antique Reproductions of Kate Greenaway Books.....\$.85 -4.00
- Antique Post Office Bank.....25.00
- Felt Ornaments..... 2.50
- Sterling & Silverplated Spoon Rings.5.50-8.50

- Interesting Books on Pennsylvania History
- Pennsylvania Beautiful.....Nutting.... 3.50
- Pittsburgh A Sketch of Its Early Social Life.....Dahlinger.. 3.00
- Great Floods of Pennsylvania....Shank... 2.50
- The Ohio River Handbook & Picture Book.....Klein... 6.95
- The Pennsylvania Main Line Canal McCullough & Leuba.. 4.75
- The Architectural Heritage of Early Western Pennsylvania.....Stotz..17.50

- Special Group of limited quantity books
- Duet in Diamonds.....Burke.. 5.00
- The Confident Years.....Andrist.. 5.95
- The Desperate Years.....Horan.. 3.95
- Birds.....Campbell.. 3.00
- The Pinkertons: The Detective Dynasty that Made History.....Horan.. 5.00
- Sew Simply, Sew Right....Rhea,Leighton.. 2.50
- Flow East.....Kaufmann.. 7.95
- The Foxfire Book.....Wigginton.. 3.95
- The Circus from Rome to Ringling...May.. 3.00

- Collection of large color folio books... 1.98ea.
- Model Airplanes
- Model Trains
- Butterflies & Moths
- Gems & Jewels
- Cats & Kittens
- Purebred Dogs

AN OLD-FASHIONED
CHRISTMAS
OLD POST OFFICE MUSEUM

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 2, 7:00-9:00 p.m.

We invite our members and their friends to celebrate a turn-of-the-century Christmas at the Old Post Office. This, our second annual Christmas Party will feature:

- Trimming the Giant Fir Tree
- Christmas Music by "The Consort of Musick" (including a "Carol Sing-a-long")
- Christmas Stories
- Christmas Music by the Teutonia Menterchor
- German Carols by Most Holy Name Kindergarden
- Punch and Cookies
- Wine and Cheese

RESERVATIONS WILL BE LIMITED AND ACCEPTED ON A "FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED" BASIS.
PRICES: Adult Members \$2.50 each, Non-members \$3.50 each, Children 25¢ plus an ornament for the tree

Please send me _____ tickets for members @\$2.50 each.....\$ _____

Please send me _____ tickets for non-members @\$3.50 each.....\$ _____

Please send me _____ tickets for children @25¢ each.....\$ _____
I will bring 1 ornament per child.

MY CHECK AND SELF-ADDRESSED STAMPED ENVELOPE ARE ENCLOSED

Name _____

Address _____

VOLUNTEERS TO MEET

November 8 at 7:30 p.m. ALL VOLUNTEERS and anyone interested in being a volunteer will meet at the Old Post Office for our annual meeting. PLEASE COME! WE NEED YOU!

Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Foundation

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

☐ New

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

PHONE _____

ENCLOSED IS \$ _____ FOR A _____ MEMBERSHIP.

(Your cancelled check is your receipt.)

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

- Individualfrom \$10.00
- Husband & Wife.....from \$12.00
- Contributingfrom \$50.00
- Sustainingfrom \$100.00
- Patronfrom \$500.00
- Lifefrom \$1,000.00
- Organizations:
- Activefrom \$25.00
- Contributingfrom \$50.00
- Sustainingfrom \$100.00
- Patronfrom \$500.00

MEMBERSHIP PRIVILEGES

1. Free admission to the Old Post Office, the Pittsburgh History & Landmarks Museum.
2. 5% discount on purchases at the Old Post Office Museum Gift Shop.
3. Subscription to "News for Members" and special publications on architecture and history.
4. Free admission or discount tickets for walking and bus tours.
5. Free admission to winter lecture series.
6. Notification of new exhibits at the Old Post Office.
7. Participation in an organization given national awards "for the vigor of its programs"